

**STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER 2013-03**

WHEREAS, The Black Hills National Forest is one of the most heavily populated forests in the United States and presents numerous wildland urban interface issues, where developed areas intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels; and,

WHEREAS, This area is susceptible to wildland fires that can devastate critical infrastructure, essential facilities, homes, and businesses, and threaten one of South Dakota's top tourism regions, including Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Crazy Horse Memorial, the historic towns of Lead and Deadwood, Custer State Park, and numerous other cultural and historical properties; and,

WHEREAS, The Black Hills National Forest and surrounding areas continue to suffer from the effects of a long term drought which, along with the topography of the region and heavy fuel loads and pine beetle infestations in the northern Black Hills, promote dangerous fire behavior and can hinder firefighting efforts; and,

WHEREAS, The mission of the South Dakota Division of Wildland Fire is to protect South Dakota's natural resources from the ravages of wildfire, concentrating its direct suppression responsibility on forestland in and adjacent to the Black Hills Forest Fire Protection District; and,


WHEREAS, The South Dakota Division of Wildland Fire, together with the South Dakota Office of Emergency Management, are called upon by local fire departments throughout the state of South Dakota to assist with range firefighting during the gubernatorial declared emergency conditions:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, under the provisions of Chapters 34-48A, 33-9, and 41-20 of the South Dakota Codified Laws, otherwise known as the Emergency Management Law, Active Service of National Guard Law, and Forestry Law, do hereby grant authority to the South Dakota Division of Wildland Fire to augment all of its firefighting response efforts throughout the state of South Dakota, with the available assets of the South Dakota National Guard during and following an initial attack on any wildfires that the Division of Wildland Fire responds to during the 2013 Fire Season (April 1 through October 31).

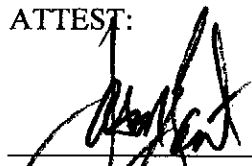
BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, That this executive order shall expire January 1, 2014.

Dated in Pierre, South Dakota, this Twenty-eighth day of March, 2013.




Dennis Daugaard
Governor of South Dakota

ATTEST:


Jason M. Gant
Secretary of State